

NOAA NWS ISSUES RED FLAG WARNING FOR L.A. COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA (LACOA) COASTAL, MOUNTAIN, AND VALLEY AREAS

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Los Angeles/Oxnard office, due to critical fire weather conditions, has issued a Red Flag Warning for Los Angeles and Ventura counties because of the forecasted Santa Ana & Northeast Winds, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures. The NOAA NWS Red Flag Warning is issued for the Los Angeles County Operational Area (LACOA) cities and unincorporated area communities including Angeles National Forest, Hollywood Hills, downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Coasts & Mountains, Malibu, Santa Clarita Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area, and western San Fernando Valley is scheduled to start at 3 a.m. PST on Monday, January 13, 2014, and remains in effect until 6 p.m. PST on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

Precautionary Preparedness Actions:

- A NOAA NWS Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions are occurring now or will be expected. This combination with strong winds, low relative humidity, warm temperatures, and dry fuels could create extreme fire danger and/or behavior.
- LACOA residents living in brush areas are reminded to take appropriate precautions. These precautions include the following:

Report any sign of smoke immediately to your local fire department by dialing 9-1-1 (If dialing 9-1-1 from your cellular phone, know your location). Use extreme caution when operating spark or flame-producing machinery in brush areas.

If living in a hazardous grass or brush area, have a Wildfire Action Plan in place. Be familiar with the Los Angeles County Fire Department's READY! SET! GO! This program provides important pre-planning and evacuation information to residents. Visit www.fire.lacounty.gov for more information.

Los Angeles County residents and businesses, including persons with disabilities and others with access and functional needs may also call 211 LA County for emergency preparedness information and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed at <http://211la.org>. To register for the Specific Needs Awareness Planning program please go to <https://snap@lacounty.gov>. For disaster/emergency preparedness information, please access <http://lacoa.org> and/or <http://espfocus.org>.

Sources: NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard office – <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/>

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